

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This letter is responsive to the Office Action of August 15, 2005.

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-25 are pending. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended to clarify that the specified humidity of the cellulosic filler is before reaction with the basic reactive filler. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0053].

Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 12-25 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujii (JP 09-059424). Applicant respectfully traverses. Examiner has pointed to the composition listed in Table 6, example 14 of Fujii indicating that this composition is the same as the claimed composition. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant notes that the maleic anhydride grafted polypropylene used in Fujii's example 14 is AD89G from Tokuyama (see paragraph [0031] of the translation). Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the attached Declaration of Minh-Tan Ton-That providing evidence that AD89G has an acid number of about 6 mgKOH/g. The Examiner can further corroborate this evidence by comparing the wt% of maleic anhydride for AD89G (i.e. 0.5 wt%) with the wt% of maleic anhydride for E43, E3015 and E3003 as listed in Table 1A on page 9 of present specification (i.e. 3.81 wt%, 1.31 wt% and 0.71 wt%).

Applicant's independent claims specify that the graft polyolefin has an acid number greater than 35 mgKOH/g. The acid number of Tokuyama's AD89G is almost 6 times less than the claimed value, and is less than the acid number of both E3015 and E3003, which are comparative graft polymers not of the currently claimed invention (see Table 1A on page 9 of present specification). Therefore, Fujii does not anticipate the presently claimed compositions.

Further in respect of claims 5-7 and 21, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the attached Declaration of Minh-Tan Ton-That providing evidence that the molecular weight of AD89G is much higher than the molecular weights recited in claims 5-7 and 20. As indicated in the Declaration, Epolene-3003 has a molecular weight much less than AD89G. The molecular weight of Epolene-3003 is 52,000 g/mol (see Table 1A on page 9 of the present specification). The maximum molecular weight recited in claims 5-7 and 21 is 50,000 g/mol. Therefore, Fujii does not anticipate claims 5-7 and 21.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Obviousness

Additionally, the presently claimed invention is inventive over Fujii. Applicant has previously remarked that the present invention considers the importance of balance between the amount of basic reactive filler and the acid number of the graft polyolefin. Fujii in paragraph [0015] of the translation indicates that the basic reactive filler "can especially be used without limit", which is directly contradictory to the present invention.

To re-emphasize the importance of balance between the amount of basic reactive filler content and the acid number of the graft polymer, Applicant draws the Examiner's attention to example 3 and comparative example C13 of the instant specification (see Table 2 on page 14 and Table 3 on page 15). Example 3 and comparative example C13 differ only in the acid number of the graft polyolefin. Comparative example C13 uses E3015 having an acid number of 15 mgKOH/g (more than twice as high as AD89G). Table 3 shows that the Young Modulus for the composition of comparative example C13 is about 4611 MPa, considerably less than 5511 MPa for example 3. The Young Modulus for a composition comprising AD89G having an acid number of 6 mgKOH/g would be even less than for comparative example C13. Thus, a composition of the presently claimed invention comprising a graft polymer having an acid number of greater than 35 mgKOH/g would have a significantly superior Young Modulus to the composition of example 14 disclosed in Fujii.

Fujii is directed to providing resin compositions having low volatility, low smoking properties during molding to provide a molded, cured product having a woody texture and good processability such as releasability from concrete, nailing and sawing (see Fujii's abstract for example). On the other hand, the present invention is directed to improving physical properties such as flexural, tensile and impact properties. Therefore, one skilled in the art could not be led from Fujii to the present invention, and would in fact be led away from the present invention since Fujii expressly places no limit on the amount of basic reactive filler.

Furthermore, Fujii cannot be combined with another reference (e.g. US 6,066,278 (Got et al.)) to render the claimed invention obvious. Applicant has previously demonstrated that compositions of the presently claimed invention have significantly superior Young Modulus over Got et al. (see the Declaration of Minh-Tan Ton-That previously submitted). Since both Fujii and Got et al. disclose compositions having poorer mechanical properties (e.g. Young Modulus) than compositions of the currently claimed invention, Applicant submits that the cited art cannot be combined to arrive at the currently claimed

compositions which have superior mechanical properties to the compositions of both Fujii and Got et al.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration on all claims is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

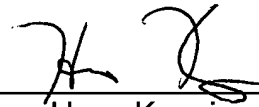
In the event that any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

ANISSIMOFF & ASSOCIATES

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By



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